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# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

For receiving clear image data of symbols applied to the front surface or back surface of an article that is moved by, for example, a conveyor and for which the

5 reading distance is constantly changing, a symbol reading device is provided with an image data input focus point control section that outputs position data of the article from a front surface/back surface position detector to an image data input focus point modifier such that the focus

10 point of a camera or waist position of a laser beam for image data input can be constantly matched to the front surface or back surface of the article.

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